

ALASKA FARM REPORTER

Alaska Division of Agriculture
Alaska Cooperative Extension
Ag & Forestry Experiment Station



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

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POTATO STOCKS

All potato stocks (bin-run) in **Alaska** on May 1, 2006 totaled 61,000 cwt. This was 37 percent of the 2005 crop and compares with 70,000 cwt, or 40 percent, on hand a year ago. The five-year average stocks on hand May 1 is 58,700 cwt. Disappearance of potatoes since the start of the harvest to May 1 totaled 105,000 cwt. Last year, disappearance to May 1 was 107,000 cwt. The five year average is 113,000 cwt. Disappearance since April 1 was 19,000 cwt compared with 23,000 cwt a year ago and the five year average of 17,600 cwt.

The disappearance since October 1 reflects sales, shrinkage and waste, as well as losses caused after harvest by late blight and frost damage. In 2005 late blight was identified in the Mat-Su Valley. Losses in the field due to late blight ranged from severe to mild. Losses post-harvest are included in the disappearance. In 2004 there was a small loss of potatoes due to frost damage, while in 2003 there was significant loss due to frost damage that is reflected in the disappearance.

The **13 MAJOR POTATO STATES** held 73.0 million cwt of potatoes in storage May 1, 2006, down 17 percent from last year and 14 percent below May 1, 2004, for comparable States. Ohio and Pennsylvania were dropped from the potato stocks program starting with the 2005 storage season. Potatoes in storage account for 20 percent of the 2005 fall storage States' production, down 2 percentage points from last year.

Disappearance of 300 million cwt of potatoes is down 4 percent from last year for comparable States. Shrink and loss, at 23.2 million cwt so far this season, is down 21 percent from last year for comparable States. Processors in the 9 major States have used 150 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 2 percent from a year ago and 3 percent below 2 years ago.

MILK PRODUCTION

ALASKA: April milk production of 800,000 pounds was down 100,000 pounds from March 2006's 900,000 pounds. Production was down 400,000 pounds from April 2005. Milk cows, at 800 head, were down 400 head from a year ago. Production per cow at 1,020 pounds was down 50 pounds from March and up 40 pounds from April 2005.

Total milk production for January through April was 3.2 million pounds compared with 4.8 million pounds for the same period in 2005.

Milk production in the **23 MAJOR STATES** during April totaled 14.2 billion pounds, up 3.7 percent from April 2005. March revised production, at 14.6 billion pounds, was up 5.6 percent from March 2005. The March revision represented an increase of 25 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,727 pounds for April, 37 pounds above April 2005.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.24 million head, 124,000 head more than April 2005, and 13,000 head more than March 2006.

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HIGHLIGHTS

POTATO STOCKS ON
MAY 1, 2006 TOTALED 61,000 CWT

APRIL MILK PRODUCTION
DOWN 33% FROM THE SAME
PERIOD LAST YEAR

ALASKA FARMERS
The **SPRING ACREAGE**
SURVEY questionnaires
were mailed on May 19th.
We would appreciate your
taking the time to fill out the
questionnaire and giving
your best acreage estimates
along with your intentions
for harvesting hay.
Information for this survey
will be published in the June
Farm Reporter. We will try
phoning those farmers who
do not respond by mail.

Internet Access to ALASKA reports at:
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U.S. BARLEY & OAT PROGRESS

As of May 14TH, 2006, Barley growers had planted 78 percent of their crop, 4 points behind last year but 7 points ahead of the 5-year average. Under dry conditions, North Dakota producers planted 32 percent of their acreage during the week, pushing their progress to 16 points ahead of normal. Emergence advanced to 36 percent, 10 points behind last year and 5 points behind normal. In Minnesota, Montana, and North Dakota, one-fifth of the crop emerged during the week.

Ninety-four percent of the Nation's oat crop had been planted, compared with 95 percent last year and 88 percent for the 5-year average. Planting reached completion in Iowa and Nebraska and neared completion in Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. North Dakota growers made rapid progress during the week, planting 27 percent of their acreage. Emergence, at 77 percent, was 1 point ahead of last year and 8 points ahead of normal. Progress was at or ahead of normal in all States, except Iowa.